

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, and 32 are pending. Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 19-21, 23, and 32 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10-13, 15, 17, 18, 27-31, and 33-34 have been canceled. Applicant thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 28 and 34 include allowable subject matters.

Claims 1, 3-10, 14-18, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai, Kirlin, and Maiti. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai, Kirlin, and Maiti in view of Jaeger. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai, Kirlin, and Maiti in view of Wolf. Claims 39 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirai or, in alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai. Claims 32-33 were rejected under section 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai and Ilyer. Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai in view of Kirlin and Maiti. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections above.

Claims 21 and 32 have been amended to include the features of claims 28 and 34 that have been indicated as having allowable subject matters. Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 19, and 20 have been amended to change the dependency. Claim 23 has been amended to cancel a feature that has become redundant as a result of the amendment of claim 21. Applicant believes these amendments do not raise new issues.

Appl. No. 09/747,779
Amdt. dated May 24, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Y. Cho
Reg. No. 44,612

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
SYC:asb
60209088 v1